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TITLE: Serum Genetic Markers as Surrogates of Prostate Cancer Progression

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PROGRESS REPORT

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No progress report has been carried out on this project since AMDEX had not approved the human subjects IRB until March 2005. The only work that has been done on this project is multiple revisions and resubmissions of documents pertaining to the human subjects' protocol and consent forms. Therefore this progress report is being submitted as a formality. Recently we submitted a progress report in January 2005 to Dr. Mishra, in charge of the DOD prostate grants.

Finally, in March 2005, the prohibitions against the use of human subjects and human anatomical substances to this agreement were removed. We are now collecting serum samples from normal and prostate cancer patients. Assays are being set up rapidly to make time that has been missed. We have developed new approaches of measuring circulating DNA in serum for microsatellites and methylation of tumor-related genes in other cancers. Fortunately we can apply this to the prostate studies. In addition we have developed improved DNA extraction techniques as well as assay techniques for circulating DNA in serum. The upcoming year will be focused on developing new DNA markers as well as accruing patients and normal donors for the studies. We will also get our collaborators at U. of Washington on board by having approval of the protocol and consents from their human IRB approved.